

IRON GULCH TIMBER SALE

May 21, 2007 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Lewistown Unit (NELO) – Approximately 25 miles north of Lewistown, Montana.
- Fergus County – Section 36, T18N-R17E
- 100% Common Schools Trust

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 7,000 tons (1,000 MBF) with an estimated minimum value of \$122,506.00 or \$17.50/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$0.40/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 7.00 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale contains two harvest units totaling 250 acres.
- The proposed silvicultural prescription is a shelterwood harvest. This silvicultural prescription would encourage the development of multi-layered stands and a complex forest structure by retaining a range of size and age classes, along with large snags. Harvest prescriptions would favor the retention of large, healthy trees, and the removal of small, stagnant, insect infested and/or diseased trees.
- No old growth would be harvested.

Harvest Systems:

- 100% tractor

Road Construction:

- Approximately 2.95 miles of temporary road construction is required to access the sale units.

Public Involvement & Issues:

- In conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, public involvement was solicited through legal notices published in the *Lewistown News-Argus*, public meetings, and letters were sent to adjacent landowners and interested parties. The public, DNRC specialists and specialists from other agencies helped identify the issues that were analyzed. The issues of concern were noxious weeds and loss of cover for wildlife.

Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:

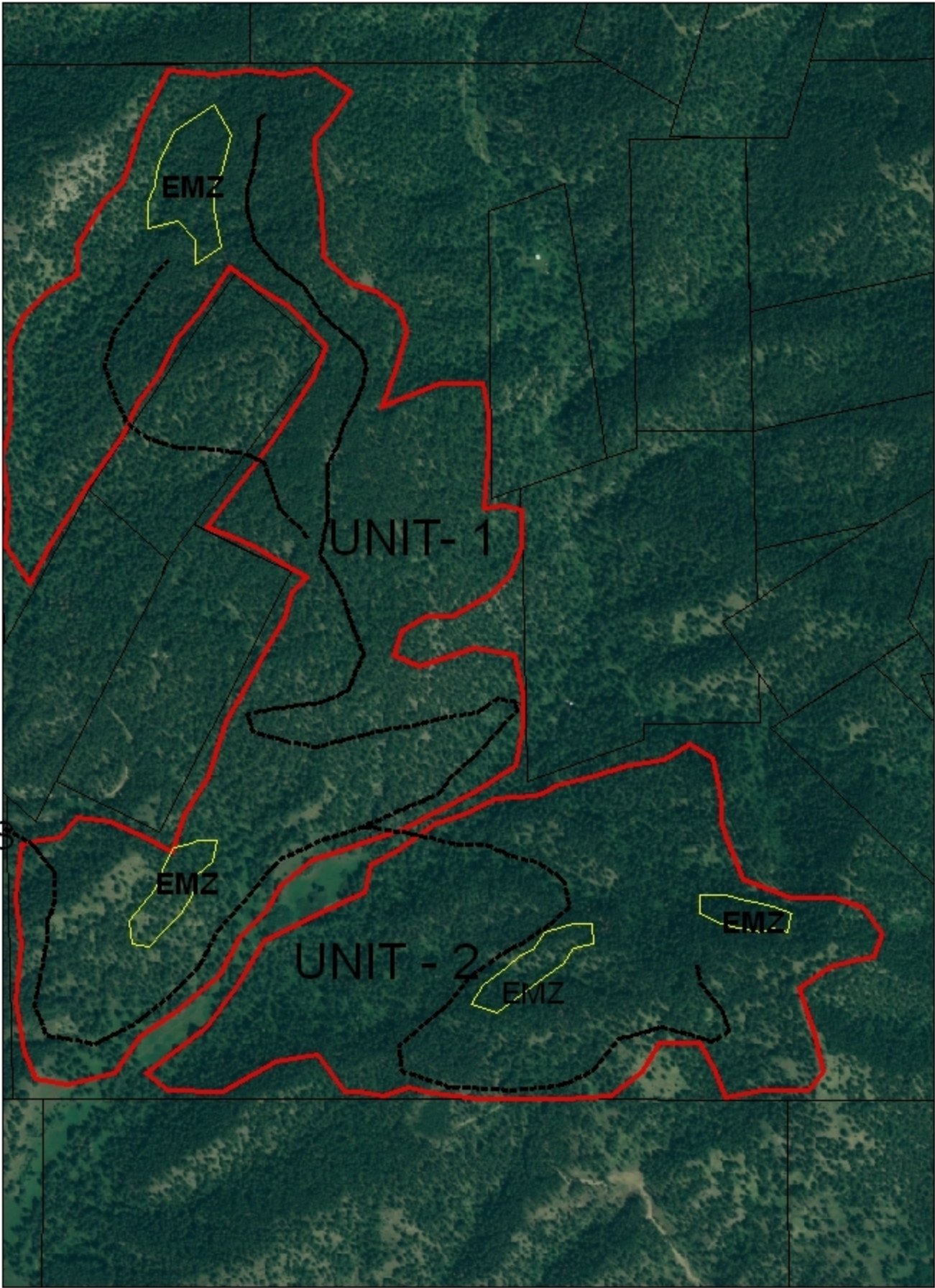
- **Noxious Weeds** - Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing, and loading activities would be washed and inspected before being brought on site. All disturbed areas would be seeded with a weed-free native grass mix. The project would be monitored and treated with herbicides if necessary.
- **Wildlife** – Harvest treatments should increase forage for big game and may temporarily reduce wildlife cover. Retention of leave strips for game travel, road closures, and large pockets of untreated areas would maintain limited sight distances. Hunter access will not change.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Iron Gulch Timber Sale.

Iron Gulch Timber Sale - UNITS



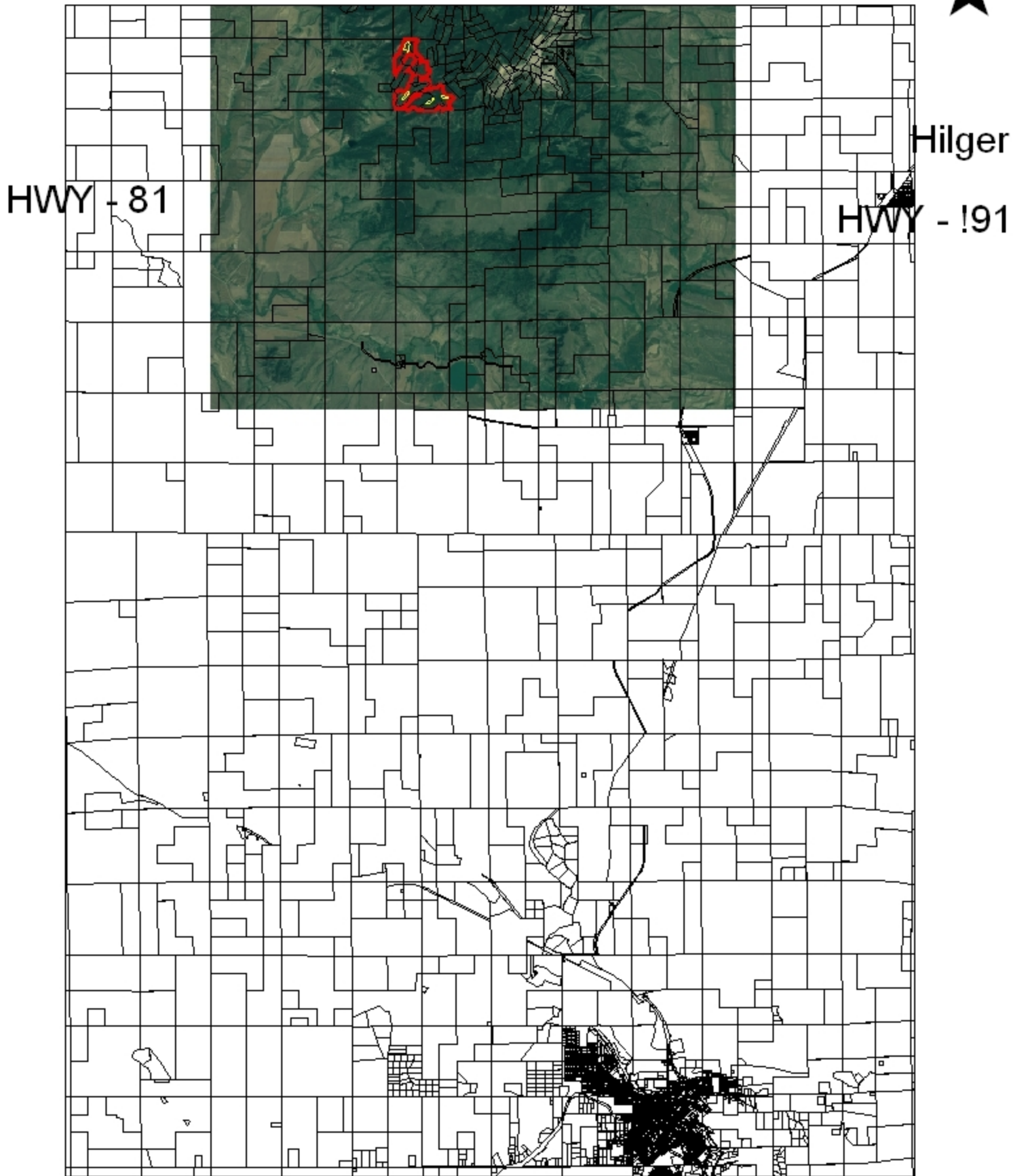
ROADS



0 260 520 1,040 1,560 2,080 Feet

sec. 36, T18N, R17E

Iron Gulch Timber Sale - (Vicinity Map)



0 3,450 6,900 13,800 20,700 27,600 Feet

Lewistown
sec. 36, T18N, R17E